

MECHANICS' OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

GENTLEMEN,

At a Meeting of Deputies* from the different Branches of the Institution, at Leeds, Aug. 16th, convened to arrange its affairs more to the satisfaction of its members, so many alterations in our Rules were found to be indispensable, that it was thought some explanation would be necessary. The Meeting did me the honour of appointing me to draw up an address to you on this subject: the following is therefore respectfully submitted to you.

At the above Meeting, it was unanimously agreed upon that the Rules should be enrolled, in accordance with the Regulations of the Friendly Society Act, passed in the 49th year of his late Majesty's reign. With this view the Free Gift and the Relief when out of work were united in one Institution under one code of Rules, to be called in future, 'The Mechanics' Friendly Institution, for the relief of fellow-workmen in distress and sickness, and for the burial of the dead:' still leaving the members at liberty to be entitled to both or only one of the advantages above stated, as they think proper.

The proceedings of the above Meeting were conducted with the utmost propriety, and the greatest unanimity and good feeling prevailed the whole time of its sitting. Our own interests and those of our employers were considered inseparable, and no conclusions come to, as it is hoped will appear from the rules, that manifest any sentiments of hostility to them.

Rule I. gives to one son of every Mechanic, if under 21 years of age, the privilege of becoming a member of the Institution, with his father's consent, or at his death.

It was understood that all who are working as Mechanics at the present time, or who may enter within two months after our next November Meeting, shall be admitted as members: and such as have withdrawn shall be received again as members, on paying 7s. 6d. entrance, before the time above specified; after which, no members shall be admitted except according to the rules.

The alterations in Rule II. were thought advisable, as they would save many committee meetings, and consequently much trouble and expence to the Institution.

The number of members on the committee, according to Rule III. appeared to us sufficient for the largest branches, and not disproportionate to the smallest, as five can act.

The Rules from the IV. to the VII. inclusive, it is hoped, will require no explanation.

According to the VIII. Rule, it was determined that no person shall in future act as Secretary who is not a member and working at the trade, and that no secretary be allowed to hold the key of the box in which our accounts and money are deposited.

The X. and XI. Rules will be found sufficiently explicit.

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ABRAHAM LARGE.

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